

REMARKS

Claims 13, 17 and 34 are pending in the present application. Claims 13 and 17 have been amended herein. Claim 34 has been added herein. Claims 1-12, 14-16 and 18-33 have been cancelled herein.

I. FORMAL MATTERS

Applicant notes with appreciation that the Office Action acknowledges the claim to priority and indicates that the certified copy of the priority document has been received.

Applicant notes with appreciation that the present office action includes a copy of the PTO Form 1449 that was submitted in the Information Disclosure Statement filed on September 26, 2003. The reference cited therein is initialed by the Examiner, thereby indicating that this reference was considered by the Examiner and will be listed on any patent that issues from the present application.

The Office Action does not indicate whether the formal drawings filed on September 26, 2003 are acceptable. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to do so.

The Office Action objects to the Abstract. Applicant has amended the Abstract, as shown in the attached Abstract, which replaces the current Abstract.

II. PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

A. Claims 13-16, 18-19, 24 and 29

Claims 13-16, 18-19, 24 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,483,152 (Kim). With respect to claim 13, this rejection is traversed. With respect to claims 14-16, 18-19, 24 and 29, this rejection is moot because these claims have been cancelled herein.

Applicant submits that Kim does not teach or suggest the features of claim 13. For example, Kim does not teach or suggest a silicon nitride layer or a silicon oxynitride layer formed on the resistive conductive layer; and a silicon oxide layer formed on the side of the resistive layer. Since Kim does not teach or suggest each and every feature of claim 13, Applicants submits that the rejection of claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) is improper.

B. Claims 17 and 30-31

Claims 17 and 30-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kim in view of U.S. Published Patent Application No. 2003/0034531 (Kanda). With respect to claim 17, this rejection is traversed. With respect to claims 30-31, this rejection is moot because claims 30-31 have been cancelled herein.

Applicant submits that Kanda does not make up for the above-noted deficiencies of Kim. Therefore, the combination of Kim and Kanda does not form the invention defined by claim 17. Thus, the rejection of claim 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is overcome.

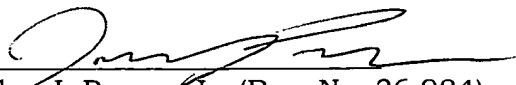
Regarding new claim 34, Applicant submits that neither Kim nor Kanda teaches or suggest the features recited therein.

Based on the foregoing, Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Applicant kindly requests the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the phone number listed below to discuss this application, if the Examiner feels that such discussion may expedite prosecution of the present application.

Applicant believes that no additional fees are due for the subject application. However, if for any reason a fee is required, a fee paid is inadequate or credit is owed for any excess fee paid, you are hereby authorized and requested to charge Deposit Account No. 04-1105.

Respectfully submitted,

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Customer No.: 21874


John J. Penny, Jr. (Reg. No. 36,984)
EDWARDS & ANGELL, LLP
P.O. Box 55874
Boston, MA 02205
Tel.: (617) 517-5549
Fax: (617) 439-4170